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lower ground from central Colorado and Utah to the borders of Texas and Mexico. It is the *Q. alba* var. *gunnisoni* of Torrey, the *Q. douglasii* var. *gambelii* of A. DeCandolle, and the *Q. undulata* var. *gambelii* of Engelm.

Of the remaining species the most notable are *Q. chrysolepis* Leibmann and *Q. densiflora* Hook. and Arnott, the latter evidently related to the chestnut (*Castanea*), both in foliage and fruit. The former enjoys the distinction of being "the most valuable oak of the Pacific forests." Like many other western species, it has passed under several other names, viz., *Q. pulvescens* Kellogg, and *Q. crassipocula* Torrey.

The second part of the work contains plates of ten species and varieties never before figured. It is a supplement to the work of the lamented Kellogg, and is most fittingly added to it. The newly-figured species are: *Q. palmeri* Engelm., *Q. turbinella* Greene, *Q. tomentella* Engelm., *Q. macdonaldi* Greene, and its variety *elegantula* Greene, *Q. fendleri* Leibmann, *Q. jacobi* R. Brown Campst., *Q. gilberti* Greene, *Q. venustula* Greene, *Q. dumosa* forma *polycarpa* Greene.—CHARLES E. BESSEY.

The Flora of Nebraska.³—Nebraska has an interesting flora. Its geographical position, stretching from the mountains on the west across the arid plains to the rich prairies on the east, and a midway latitude between north and south, is strong indication of the fact. The well-known catalogue of Nebraska plants by Samuel Aughey, published fifteen years ago, upon data now known to have been sadly defective, contained such a wealth of plant names that it has led botanists ever since to believe in the superior richness of the flora.

The really earnest and careful study of the State flora dates from the connection of Professor C. E. Bessey with the State University at Lincoln. Upon his entrance into the State the collection of a representative herbarium was begun, together with a study of the economic features of the vegetation. Valuable papers upon different portions of the work have been published from time to time, the latest of which is given in the Annual Report of Nebraska State Board of Agriculture for 1889, recently issued.

This paper is the official report of the botanist to the board, and covers 160 pages. The first part is an account of the grasses and forage plants of Nebraska, in which many practical suggestions and comments are introduced. So far 106 native species are known within the State, and 22 kinds that have been introduced as weeds. The

³ The Grasses and Forage Plants of Nebraska. By Charles E. Bessey, Ph.D. Catalogue of the Flora of Nebraska. By Herbert J. Webber, M.A. In Report of the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture for 1889. Lincoln, 1890.

cultivated grasses and some of the forage plants also receive attention ; and notes upon cultivation, use of irrigation for meadows, diseases of grasses, and other topics make the report of great value to the Nebraska farmer. In the preparation of part of the topics Professor Bessey has been assisted by his pupils, Herbert J. Webber and Jared G. Smith.

The second part of the report is a catalogue of the flora of Nebraska, prepared by Mr. Webber under Professor Bessey's direction. This is in every way an admirable local flora. It embraces all manner of plants from the humblest protophyte to the most exalted anthophyte. The total number of species listed reaches (by a curious coincidence). 1890. From Professor Bessey's well-known views certain things among the departures from the commonly-accepted form in local floras, such as the arrangement of groups in an ascending order, the use of "phyta" as a uniform termination for the names of the grand divisions, and the decapitalization of specific names, were to be expected ; but in the present instance we meet with an unlooked-for innovation in the use of Luerssen's arrangement of the phanerogams instead of one of the common American or English systems. This abolishes the division of Apetalæ, distributing the orders of this group according to their affinities, and brings the Compositæ at the end of the list as representing the highest development of plant life. Many minor changes of arrangement will be noted by the student, and especially the attempt to follow the most advanced views in both arrangement and nomenclature.

A feature of the work to which too much praise cannot be accorded is the indication under each species of the particular herbarium in which the specimen on which the determination was made can be found. This makes it possible to re-examine the data for any part of the catalogue desired, should the necessity for doing so ever arise. Could this practice be made universal the days of slight appreciation of local lists would soon be past, and they would become an important factor in the study of geographical distribution, etc., instead of being largely ignored as heretofore.

Further interesting features of this catalogue might be mentioned. It will undoubtedly serve as a model for other collectors who are ambitious to embody the results of the latest studies in their local lists, a desire which should not be discouraged.—J. C. ARTHUR.

Physikalische Krystallographie,⁴ by Dr. Th. Liebisch, is an excellent treatise on the physical properties of crystals as distinguished from uncrystallized bodies. An introduction of fifty pages discusses the differences between crystallized and uncrystallized substances, and

⁴Leipzig, Veit and Comp., 1891, pp. VIII., 614, 298 fig., 9 tables.